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*Cordia*

*Boraginaceae*

*Cordia* commemorates German father and son. The father, Euricius Cordus (1486-1535) was a physician, botanist, and poet, as well as a humanist and Lutheran convert. In his thirties he studied medicine, became civic physician for Brunswick in northern Germany in 1523, and in 1527 was also appointed as professor of medicine at the first and oldest Protestant university, the University of Marburg but resigned the latter post in 1533. He established a botanical garden and is said to be the first German professor to have arranged study trips for his students to examine plants. As a poet he wrote 1200 epigrams in Latin which celebrate his humanist views and for which he is particularly remembered. His published works included *Botanologicon sive colloquium de herbis*. His son, Valerius (1515-1544) was a physician, botanist, and pharmacologist. In his short life he applied an unusual (for his time) taxonomic approach to plant categorisation and description (which he applied to several new plants), wrote the first pharmacopoeia (a list of drugs and their preparation), and revised Dioscorides' catalogue of medicinal plants written in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. In addition he was furthering his own studies and conversing on philosophy, as well as lecturing and travelling widely. He is believed to have been the first European to synthesise ether (which as a volatile liquid he called 'sweet oil of vitriol'), and he died in Rome from malaria. His works, some published posthumously, include Nuremberg *Dispensatorium*, *Historia Plantarum*, and *Annotations on Dioscorides*.